

Cathedral of St. Mark, with its profusion of marble columns, its bronzes, and its endless mosaics, covering the ceilings and walls of the interior, and the alcoves and gable exteriorly. Notice the statues before the high altar, four of which—the Evangelists—are by Sansovino. On the left, and opening into the sacristy, is his famous bronze door, on which, say they, he expended twenty years of life. You will notice it is divided into two panels, the subjects being the Death of Christ and the Resurrection: in the border are some exquisite busts, one of which—forming the handle to the door—is Sansovino's portrait. By accident, it bears, too, a strong resemblance to Byron. Many of the delights of Venice are not to be described: it should be seen to be appreciated. Who that has been there will not remember some half day spent leaning over the balcony, shaded from the sun, and in the soft, mild air—too warm to suggest the idea of taking cold, but sufficiently cool to be enjoyable,—and contemplating the waters of the canal grande sparkling in the sunshine, and incessantly stirred into motion by the silent oars of the dusky gondolas, bearing gaily-dressed pleasure-seekers, or busy lionizing English, Murray in hand? Immediately beneath stretches the broad quay, crowded with vendors of water, fruit, cigars, and cakes: eager pedestrians are hurrying to and fro; and lazy gondolieri are sleeping in the sunshine while waiting to be hired.

There are, it is true, many melancholy spots of desolation in Venice, and even on this same canal, only a hundred yards farther on, the eye rests with regret on once beautiful palaces now mouldering into ruin, their noble steps jarred and broken with the transit of coarse burdens, and their magnificent halls degraded into store-rooms for wood and coal. Nevertheless Venice is still lovely, even in desolation and decay, and fruitful in suggestions. As one says truly, "Her history is written upon her front, from the rude masonry frowning architecture of barbarism and power, to modern elegance and imbecility."

The three parts already issued by Mr. Ruskin contain plates mostly of detached portions of buildings on a large scale. Some are given in mezzotint (which accurately conveys the peculiar style of drawing adopted by the author), and others in tinted lithography. Mr. Ruskin says, "In completing studies of this kind, it has always seemed to me, that the most expressive and truthful effects were to be obtained (at least when the subject presented little variation of distances), by bold Rembrandtism; that is to say, by the sacrifice of details in the shadowed parts, in order that greater depth of tone might be afforded to the lights." The result of this system is a strong resemblance in many of the plates to copies of daguerreotypes. Plate 2.—Arabian windows, in *Campo Santa Maria Mater Domini*, is a good example of this. A curious point is observable in this, and in nearly every group of windows in Venice belonging to this transitional or Arabic period, which is, that one of the lateral openings is larger than all the rest!

The southern portico of St. Mark's, a Byzantine ruin, in *Rio di Ca' Foscari*, with a conjectural restoration, and three plates of doorheads, are amongst the most interesting examples in the work. The doorways of Venice are almost always formed by an arch or gable above a horizontal lintel, the enclosed space being sometimes left open, and merely defended by iron bars; sometimes filled with masonry, and charged with ornament. "The methods of doing this are various and beautiful; but in the earlier ages, all agree thus far, that the name of the family is told, and, together with it, there is always an intimation that they have placed their defence and their prosperity in God's hands; frequently accompanied with some general expression of benediction to the person passing over the threshold."

Enough, however, of Venice just now: Mr. Ruskin's future parts will enable us to return to it, and always with pleasure:—

"Her palaces are crumbling to the shore,
And music meets not always now the ear:
Those days are gone. But Beauty still is here."

THE ROYAL ACADEMY MEDALS. GENEROUS EMULATION.

ALL were extremely gratified to hear from the lips of the President of the Royal Academy, on the 10th inst., when the prizes were distributed, the compliment paid by Sir C. Eastlake to the talent of the unsuccessful architectural student, who missed the prize because he had not climbed to the top of Bow spire to measure the actual height of the uppermost feature of the composition. He said it was the unanimous opinion of all the architectural members that a more beautiful set of drawings had never been submitted for the silver medal. The refusal of the Council was wise and just, not to admit into the competition one who had not fulfilled the strict letter of the conditions,—to make the drawings from actual admeasurement; and all must lament the want of energy, determination, and spirit, which induced the student to fall short of his duty. It is said, however, that, by a curious chance, there was a great variety in the proportions of those who had measured the spire, and he was the mean between their extremes.

But I am anxious to express my disbelief of a report, current in the rooms at the time, that the other competitors, fearful of the superiority of their rival, had memorialised the Council to exclude him on the ground of non-compliance with the instructions. I cannot believe so ungracious a proceeding. I would rather imagine our young friends, with a generous enthusiasm creditable to themselves, and from respect for the brilliant talents of their able antagonist, if they had thought of the possibility of exclusion, to have prayed the Council to have still allowed him to compete; rather than upon a question, not involving an error of serious amount, to get rid of a dangerous rival, in order to secure the prize to those second in merit in point of execution. Such a proceeding would have been honourable, and would have impressed this noble principle upon their minds for their future struggles in life,—that in a liberal profession it is not merely he who is successful, but he who is successful honourably and generously, that wins the respect, the confidence, and esteem of those around him.

THOMAS L. DONALDSON.

University College.

IRISH ARCHITECTURAL AND RAILWAY NOTES.

THE Royal Irish Beet Sugar Company are converting extensive premises at Mountmellick, in the Queen's county, into a factory. The works are at present in active operation, all the necessary surveys and plans having been completed. The buildings will contain crystallising and defecating pans, and engine rooms, &c. Eighty-one packages of machinery, and 301 packages of animal charcoal, have been forwarded from Antwerp, and it is confidently expected that all the machinery, which is being fixed under the inspection of the manager and patentee, Mr. H. Croxley, of London, will be in a fit state to turn out the first produce about the middle of December. At Donaghmore, also in the Queen's county, a cutting and drying station is being established, and all the necessary plans, &c., have been furnished for the immediate erection of the required buildings. Factories will also be erected by the company at Cork, Belfast, Galway, and other provincial towns, and a model depot is to be built at Dublin, when the experiment receives a fair trial. Several contracts have been entered into with the neighbouring landed proprietors, and the new factories will give great employment to the poor.

The Lords of the Admiralty have applied for tenders (for the erection of the new pier at Queen's-town) to two London, three Dublin, and five Cork contractors.

The Limerick and Foynes railway is being marked out: the first sod will be shortly laid: there will be stations at Limerick, Patrickswell, Adare, Rathkeale, and Foynes. Mr. Dargan, the contractor, has subscribed 10,000*l.* and the Waterford and Limerick Company a similar sum, towards its construction.

A new flax spinning manufactory is to be

erected at Lough Erne, near Ballyshannon, and Thos. Connolly, Esq., M.P., has given a free site for the purpose.

The Midland Great Western Railway Company are about having the electric telegraph constructed between Dublin and Galway. The new terminus at the latter place, fully described by us some time since, is almost complete. The corrugated iron roof, 400 feet long by 80 feet wide, is single span, has been constructed and finished by Mr. Richard Turner, of Dublin. The stone work of the hotel (which fronts Eyre-square, and which is being erected by the company in connection with the terminal buildings) is in a forward state, and a large number of hands are at present engaged in its erection by the contractor, Mr. Dargan.

Sundry works are to be executed at the Tullamore and Listowel auxiliary workhouses, and a new drying closet at Mallingar, under the direction of the architect to the poor-law commissioners.

During 1852, or early in 1853, railways will be finished and opened from Malloy to the Lakes of Killarney, from Dublin to Bray and Wicklow, and to Belfast over the Boyne.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

Upton (Slough).—The venerable old church of Upton-cum-Chalvey has, at length, in accordance with our wishes, been restored, enlarged, and reconsecrated. The building has been completely restored, internally and externally, and a new aisle added. The seats are all open, and half of them are free. The groined roof of the chancel has been restored to its original character under the hand of Mr. Willement, who, at his own expense, has placed two stained-glass windows over the altar. There is a third stained-glass window near the pulpit. The nave is now double its ancient dimensions. The south porch, an enriched Norman design, forms the principal entrance. The outer wall has been made principally out of the old materials: the flint and pieces of conglomerate, which had defied the weather for the last 800 years, have all been worked up again. The old wall, it is said, was firm as a rock, and the hardest portion of the contractor's work was the getting it to pieces. A vestry-room has been added as a sort of lean-to to the tower. Built up in the wall, on the south side of the chancel, near to the altar, was found an ancient piscina. It has been preserved in the position where it was found. Two arches, 22 feet in height, form a new foundation to the tower, and are the means of communication to the chancel on the one hand, and the nave on the other. On the north wall of the tower has been replaced the monument to the great astronomer, the elder Herschel, who was an inhabitant of Upton, and lies buried in the church. In the southern wall of the nave was found a figure about two feet high, wrought in alabaster, of the Holy Father holding the Son, on the cross. The head of the principal figure is wanting, and the other portion is broken. Whilst repairing the walls of the nave, some other relics of antiquity made their appearance. There were traces of colour in every direction; but the colours had been so eaten into by the lime, that it was seldom that even the outline could be guessed at. The architect was Mr. Ferrey. The mason work was executed by Mr. George Harley, of Slough. The other portions of the building were completed by Mr. Snowball, of Slough, who took the contract. Stoves were put up by Mr. Potter. The total cost is estimated at about 1,600*l.* nearly the whole of which has been raised.

Hastings.—Amongst recent improvements here, is the erection of a new assembly-room and market-room, which was lately inaugurated in the latter capacity.

Hythe.—New national schools were opened here on Tuesday week. They are situated at the west end of the town, facing the public green, and are in the old English style. The walls are of native stone (presented by Mr. William Desden, M.P.) The windows and porches have mouldings and dressings of Caen stone. The roofs are covered with ornamental